

QUEENS PARK PRECINCT PUBLIC MEETING

2 August 2023

commencing 7pm Waverley Library

Convenors: Peter Cohen, Simon Swifte
Apologies: Councillor Angela Burrill, Sarah McCarthy
Councillors present: None

Minutes of AGM 31 May 2023

Motion to adopt from Ian Barber; seconded Phyllis Fong. Adopted

Progress report on major developments

194 Oxford St (DA-400/2021)

- At ordinary Council Meeting on 16 May 2023, Council approved the planning agreement attached to the report applying to land at 194–214 Oxford Street and 2 Nelson Street, Bondi Junction, offering a total contribution of \$7.45 million, comprising a \$1.15 million in-kind contribution (a through site link and a public plaza on the development site) and a \$6.3 million cash contribution to be allocated to the items set out in the planning agreement, in accordance with Council's Planning Agreement Policy. Development was approved by a State Government authorised Planning Panel on 23 August 2022

Cnr Denison & Oxford (DA-127/2013, 45 Oxford St)

- Council's Development Application tracking tool web page 28 May 23 shows Deferred Commencement.

War Memorial Hospital

- Minutes from Strategic Planning and Development Committee Meeting held on 1 August 2023 not yet available.
- Committee considered amendments to the draft Site Specific Development Control Plan (SSDCP) that was developed during the planning proposal process and seek Council's support to endorse the amended SSDCP.
- Finalisation would conclude a site-specific planning process which commenced six years ago in July 2017, when the initial proponent-led planning proposal was first submitted to Council.

Birrell St renewal update

- A number of residents raised issues about the recent changes that are part of the renewal of Birrell St between Newland St and Bronte Rd.
- Most issues relate to the drastic narrowing of the road in order to install a cycleway and some about design features that endanger drivers and passengers, including:
 1. Many have witnessed buses having difficulty turning left and east into Birrell St from Newland St because of restrictions from parked cars and cars waiting to turn right into Newland St from Birrell St.
 2. Residents have also witnessed cars travelling west along Birrell St having to stop for buses that have encroached over the line marking onto the other side of the road.
 3. The bollards installed to separate cyclists from parked cars mean that passengers and drivers often have to exit their vehicles on the narrow road carrying buses and cars. This is dangerous, especially for the elderly or the young.
 4. Some residents said that new flower beds have restricted their view when trying to turn left into Birrell St from both Stanley St and Stanley Lane, forcing them to intrude into the roadway and into danger.
 5. One resident was concerned that the pedestrian refuge at Brisbane St had been removed but apparently a raised pedestrian crossing has now been installed.
 6. The Queens Park Precinct Executive Committee is very disappointed that the problem with cars travelling east banking up at the intersection with Bronte Rd has not been addressed and is likely in fact to get worse with the added cycleway. The Committee has been seeking a solution to this for many years.

- Residents requested the Committee write to Council and the Waverley Traffic Committee about these issues and that responses be provided at how they will be addressed.

Centennial Park report

- Centennial Parklands was contacted for any information about plans, events, projects etc but did not receive a reply.
- Website shows lots of activities focusing on the Park coming up but no major events.
- Residents pointed out that the Park usually letterboxed residents about concerts and also placed notices when spraying was taking place.

Police Report - from Community Safety Precinct Committee meeting conducted by the Eastern Suburbs Eastern Suburbs Police Area Command

- No new information or specific issues for Queens Park were reported by the police.
- Just a reminder for residents to lock their cars and take valuables with them to thwart theft from vehicles.

Moriah College report

- Finally had a Zoom meeting on 20 July with the College for the first time in a long while
- Next meeting on 19 October will invite student leaders as has been the practice in the past
- In relation to parking and traffic
 - College sent out email / letters telling students they will be suspended if they do the wrong thing
 - College employs Wardens to patrol the site – 2 in afternoon, 1 in morning – monitoring the area. They note offending license plate numbers which the school keeps on hand, and there are cameras in area.
 - Some parents have other people picking up their kids – e.g. grandparents, uncles and aunts. Difficult to catch as the school may not have their licence plate numbers registered.
 - College was informed that some parents waiting in residential streets leave their engines running and this is against the law. Residents can take photos of the offender/ licence plate and send it to the school.
 - Use of buses hasn't picked up a lot. Parents are still anxious about COVID-19/ Flu season.
- In relation to the proposed development, College states that nothing is expected to happen for the next 18 months and fundraising activities will be held next year.
- College keen to get pedestrian crossing in York Rd from the school to Centennial Park. Council's Manager of Traffic and Transport has since advised that Moriah College is responsible for construction of the raised pedestrian crossing which has been approved by Council and is a condition from the Consent issued by the Department of Planning for an increase in school student numbers.
- In the past, Precinct residents have requested a crossing into the park further north without success.
- Resident with young family raised the issue of the College's loudspeaker system being very loud. This has been raised in the past and the school said that it would introduce an LED sign system. Committee agreed to raise the matter with the College.

General Business

- Resident of Fitzgerald St queried why resident parking conditions had recently changed and now included Sundays. This makes it difficult to have visitors.
- Pointed out that normally streets are surveyed about resident parking. Suggested she contact Ward Councillors and find out if survey took place.
- Roma raised the issue of the proposal to totally transform Oxford St between Centennial Park gates and Taylor Square and drew attention to the Dept of Transport's survey that closes on 14 August.
- Oxford St has always been a major thoroughfare for eastern suburbs residents in their everyday interactions.

- Proposal is aimed primarily at cyclists and involves reducing car lanes to one each way, installing a cycleway, reducing bus stops from eight to five, eliminating most right hand turns etc.
- The detrimental impact on residents east of Paddington (mostly Waverley Council residents) was discussed, especially in reaching the medical facilities at St Vincents Hospital. This also applies to emergency vehicles.
- Resident who previously spoke about the need to free up parking at pick-up time outside Waverley Public School requested an update. Was raised with the Mayor earlier this year. She said she would raise it with the police. Need to follow this up.

Next meeting: 22 November 2023